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(*f*) whether representations have been received from the people of neighbouring villages that lands in that forest area be assigned or be leased to them for grazing, living and other communal purposes; and

(*g*) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (*a*) The total area of Kudiraimozhitheri reserve is 17,783 acres.

(*b*) The amount of revenue realised is about Rs. 8,000.

(*c*) No such scheme has been investigated but a scheme for saturating the sand dunes with water from a nearby channel was investigated by the Public Works Department. The cost (Rs. 1·85 crores) was found prohibitive and the matter was *not* pursued. The Chief Conservator of Forests, Madras, is contemplating regeneration of 1,000 acres of the 'theri' per year. This scheme may include putting up of bunds across shallow streams and depressions for conservation of rain-water.

(*d*) & (*e*) Do not arise.

(*f*) Representations for assignment have been received.

(*g*) The Chief Conservator of Forests has been asked to examine the general question regarding the lease of lands for cultivation in the Kudiraimozhitheri Reserved Forest and to submit definite proposals in consulation with the Collector of Tirunelveli.

SRI M. S. SELVARAJAN : ஸார், பிரஸ்தாப குதிரைமொழித்தேரியில் கரையோரங்களில் இருக்கின்ற நிலத்தை அங்குள்ள பனை பட்டாதார்களுக்கும் நிலமற்ற விவசாயிகளுக்கும் ஜாரி செய்து கொடுப்பதற்கோ அல்லது லீஸ்-ககு விடுவதற்கோ ஏதாவது கோரிக்கைகள் வந்தது உண்டா ? வந்தது என்றால் அவ்விதம் அமுலாக்கப்பட்டதா ?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : அதில் ஓரளவு ஒப்புக் கொள்ளப்பட்டு நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. ஆனால் பொதுவாக அம்மாதிரி பயிர் செய்வதற்கு கொடுப்பது என்றால் பின்னால் இருக்கின்ற நீர் தேக்கங்களுக்கு பாதகம் ஏற்படும் என்று சொல்லப்படுவதால் அரசாங்கம் அதை பரிசீலனை செய்து மேற்கொண்டு நடவடிக்கைகள் எடுக்க முடியும்.

MR. SPEAKER : As the hon. Member who gave notice of the question, namely, Sri K. Ramachandran, is not in his seat, the question together with the answer thereto will be printed in the official proceedings.

Mid-day meals

* 682 *Q.*—SRI K. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of schools in which mid-day meal scheme has been introduced in 1957–58;

(*b*) the amount spent therefor;

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(*c*) whether the scheme has been worked out in the Ramanathapuram district; and

(*d*) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) 6,700 schools.

(*b*) An allotment of Rs. 6,85,650 has been placed at the disposal of District Educational Officers for sanction of grants. It is expected that this amount will be utilised by 31st March 1958.

(*c*) Yes, Sir.

(*d*) Does not arise.

College of Integrated Medicine

* 683 *Q*.—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there is any proposal to reorganise the courses in the College of Integrated Medicine; and

(*b*) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The details are being worked out.

Minimum wages

* 684 *Q*.—SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the fifteenth Indian Labour Conference held in July 1957 recommended to fix minimum wages for all industries; and

(*b*) if so, whether minimum wages are proposed to be fixed based on "norms" as recommended by the Labour Conference?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) & (*b*) No, Sir. The Conference discussed the subject "Wage Policy during the Second Five-Year Plan" and recommended *inter alia* that minimum wages fixed should be "need based" and should ensure the human needs of the industrial workers irrespective of any other considerations. The Conference also suggested certain "Forms" to calculate minimum wages and recommended that they should guide all wage-fixing authorities including minimum wage committees. The norms recommended by the Conference will be brought to the notice of the wage fixing machinery in this State for adoption while fixing rates of wages for any scheduled employment in future.

SRI N. K. PALANISAMI : குறைந்த பட்ச ஊதியம் எவ்விதம் நிர்ணயிக்கப்படவேண்டும் என்பதைப்பற்றி 15-வது தொழிலாளர் மகா நாட்டில் ஆலோசனை செய்யப்பட்டதாக சொன்னார்கள். அதன் பிரகாரம் எந்தெந்த அடிப்படையில் குறைந்த பட்ச ஊதியம் நிர்ணயிக்கவேண்டும் என்று இங்குள்ள கமிட்டிகளுக்கு ஆலோசனை சொல்லுவார்களா ? அல்லது சட்டங்களை திருத்துவார்களா ?